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Amtd. dated December 11, 2003

Reply to Office Action dated September 16, 2003

Amendments to the Abstract:**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to An agglomerated starch-based product and a dry mixes based thereon ~~or~~ agglomerated starch-based product which are provided suitable for preparing instant food preparations. The agglomerated starch-based product is a homogeneous powder wherein each powder particle is an agglomeration of randomly distributed fine grains of starch and maltodextrin. The agglomerated starch-based product is readily dispersible in aqueous fluids and develops its full viscosity instantaneously.